

REMARKS

With entry of the above amendments, claims 1-10 and newly submitted claims 11-12 are pending in the application. All claims previously pending have been allowed by the Examiner in the Notice of Allowability and Issue Fee Due mailed on December 15, 2003, for which the Applicants are grateful. This request for continued examination is being filed in lieu of payment of the issue fee so that the Examiner will have an opportunity to consider newly submitted dependent claims 11-12. Support for the newly submitted claims may be found throughout the specification as originally filed; in particular on page 6, lines 15-20 and page 11, lines 4-8. Applicants respectfully submit that the newly submitted claims do not add new matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims pending in the instant application are still patentable over the prior art of record. Favorable action with a further allowance of the claims pending in this application is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney below if he feels that doing so will aid in the prosecution of these claims.

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Respectfully submitted,

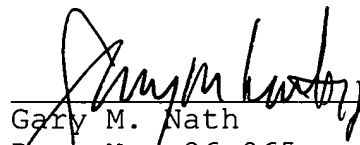
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